

Indicator #18: OSHA Enforcement Activities

Background & Public Health Significance

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) was established in 1970 by Congress. Their mission is to “assure safe and healthful conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcing standards and providing training, outreach, education and compliance assistance.” According to OSHA laws, employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy work environment for their employees. OSHA is responsible for conducting inspections within the workplace and they tend to target high-hazard industries and employers with high injury and illness rates. Inspections are also conducted when a fatality occurs, multiple hospitalizations occur (3+ workers), or a worker complaint or referral is filed. Complaints and referrals do include outside health/safety agencies and media. In 2015, reporting requirements for employers was updated to include all work-related amputations including loss of an eye as well as all hospitalizations of at least one worker. More detailed guidelines for inspections can be found in the OSHA Field Operations Manual CPL 02-00-159, available on the OSHA website (http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/Directive_pdf/CPL_02-00-159.pdf)

Data Source: OSHA annual reports of total inspections conducted and the number of workers covered by these inspections, Bureau of Labor Statistics' data on Covered Employers and Wages (ES-202/QCEW)

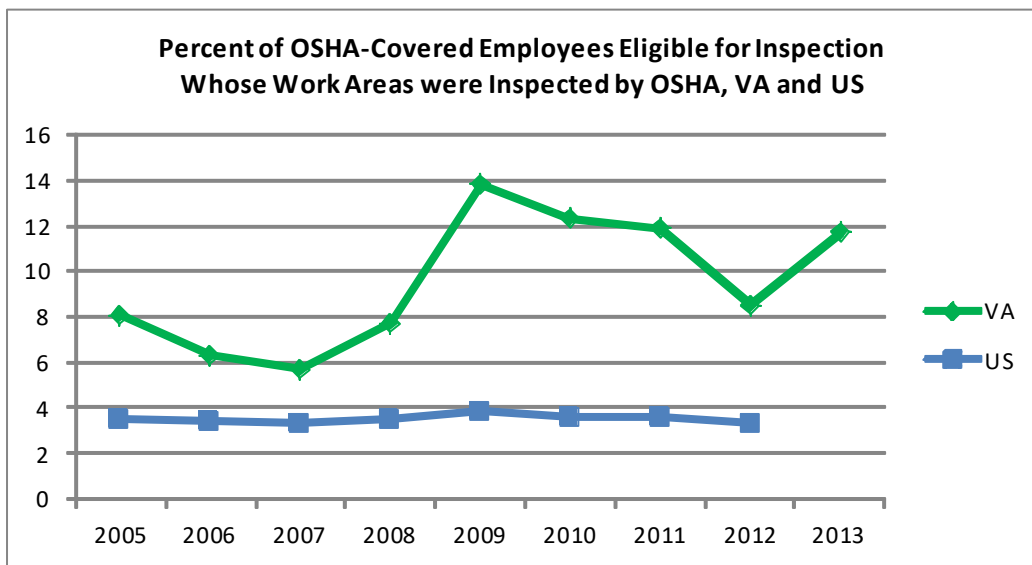
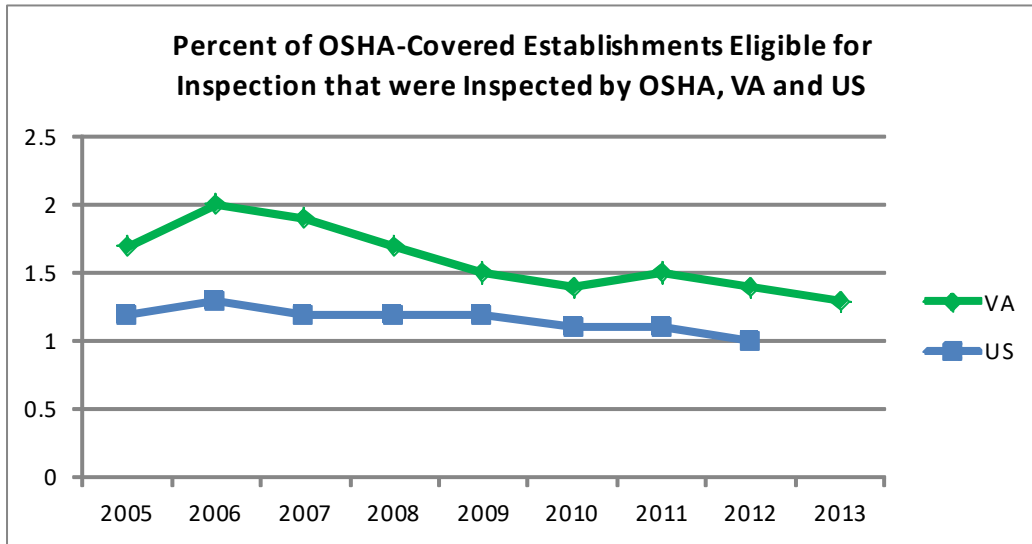
Rationale:

The measures of frequency for this indicator may approximate the added health and safety benefits and protections felt by workers as a result of their worksites being inspected.

	18.1 Annual Number of Establishments Inspected by Federal/ State OSHA	18.2 Percentage of OSHA-Covered Establishments Eligible for Inspection that were Inspected by OSHA	18.3 Annual Number of Employees Whose Work Areas were Inspected by OSHA	18.4 Percentage of OSHA-Covered Employees Eligible for Inspection Whose Work Areas were Inspected by OSHA
2005	3,527	1.7 %	287,324	8.1 %
2006	4,349	2.0 %	229,481	6.3 %
2007	4,204	1.9 %	207,929	5.7 %
2008	3,874	1.7 %	282,173	7.7 %
2009	3,452	1.5 %	486,901	13.8 %
2010	3,278	1.4 %	431,583	12.3 %
2011	3,484	1.5 %	424,157	11.9 %
2012	3,374	1.4 %	305,565	8.5 %
2013	2,964	1.3 %	424,496	11.7 %
2014	-	-	-	-

- Data Not Available

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Limitations

This indicator measures only enforcement activity, not other measures of OSHA activity such as education and compliance assistance. Because OSHA may conduct multiple inspections of the same establishment during the calendar year, the % of establishments inspected may be slightly overestimated. In addition, if OSHA conducts multiple inspections of the same worksite during the year, the number of workers covered by OSHA inspections may be over counted. In federal OSHA states and some OSHA state plan states, OSHA does not inspect farms with 10 or fewer employees. Agricultural establishments are excluded from the denominator in this indicator except for a few states; therefore, the percentages of establishments and employees covered may be overestimated in states that do inspect smaller farms.

Employers participating in an OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) or the Safety and Health Achievement and Recognition Program (SHARP) are exempted from routine inspections. Excluding workers from these programs will reduce the numerator, resulting in an underestimate of the protecting function. In QCEW data, individuals holding more than one job are counted multiple times.